

**TOY DISTRICT/DOWNTOWN INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MAY 26, 2009
MINUTES**

BOARD MEMBERS

Present: Ernie Doizaki, Howard Klein, Matt Klein, Larry Rauch, Michael Tansey and Paul Vert.

Absent: Richard Gardner, Donald Kanner, Richard Meruelo, Bill Shinbane and Mark Shinbane.

STAFF: Herlinda Chico, Raquel King, Estela Lopez and Vicky McCormick.

CONSULTANTS: Qathryn Brehm, Ken Coelho and Don Steier.

GUESTS: LAPD Sgt. Kris Werner.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vert called the meeting to order with a quorum at 12:10pm.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rauch made a motion to approve the April 28, 2009 minutes, and H. Klein seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

IV. FINANCE

Coelho informed the Board that DID received delinquent assessment revenue plus penalties for 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008, totaling \$24,000.

Coelho reported that the DID is under budget by \$14,000 for the month mostly due to timing differences of invoices. Coelho stated that he has accrued \$88,000 for the security contract.

Coelho stated that DID is tracking to be under budget in security by approx. \$30,000 at year end.

Lopez informed the Board that security costs will decrease even more because public safety Captain Emilio Zacarias will be leaving to enter into the Rio Hondo Police Academy, and his replacement will be compensated at a lower pay rate. There is no one presently on the security detail with his level of experience and expertise.

Coelho reported that the maintenance contract is tracking over budget in DID, but not Toy.

Tansey asked Coelho to provide a comparison between 2008 and 2009 delinquencies.

Coelho reported the comparison of Assessment revenue received through June 30, 2009 versus June 30, 2008; \$19,000 more was collected for Toy and \$37,000 more in DID in 2009.

Coelho stated that in DID \$80,000 was budgeted for possible delinquent assessments in 2009 and that \$64,000 is currently uncollected from 2008. \$11,000 was budgeted for Toy, and \$8,600 is uncollected from 2008.

Currently, DID has \$455,000 cash. Projected year-end total is \$117,000.

Coelho then reported that Toy received \$41,000 in assessment revenue plus penalty income. Expenses are under budget \$9,500 for the month of April. Cash total at the end of the month is \$196,500. Ending cash for Toy is projected to break even.

V. DID BID RENEWAL

Lopez reported that the public hearing in Council Chambers was successful, and there was no opposition. The next step is the ballot process which will take the next 45 days. The last step will be the final public hearing, which will take place on July 14,

2009. Lopez encouraged all the Board members to attend the final hearing; she stated that the BID will need its supporters present.

Vert asked if the City provides updates on the progress of the ballots. Lopez informed the Board that the ballots are sealed, and not opened until the final public hearing.

Doizaki asked if there is any known opposition. Lopez stated there is no indication of opposition at this time, but people who oppose usually don't make their position known to the BID. Lopez then informed the Board that she would be sending letters to the property owners who voted yes on their petitions letting them know to expect the ballot and to again vote "yes."

Rauch asked if there was statistical data on the last renewal, as far as how many people voted yes. Lopez stated that usually the people who return their petition also return their ballot, but she did not know what the percentage was in 2003 when DID last renewed.

VI. OPERATIONS

Toy:

McCormick reported that the number of trash bags collected decreased slightly, however, the year-to-date total has increased; January to April 2008- 12,272 bags collected. January to April 2009- 20,519 bags collected. 79 bulky items were collected.

McCormick reported that illegal vending, loitering and encampments decreased in Toy in April. She also mentioned that the LAPD Eastside Detail is doing an excellent job on San Pedro Street with ensuring that homeless individuals are up and tents are down at 6am.

Lopez informed the Board that the Fashion District BID pushed their boundaries back two blocks, so there is no longer a BID covering Los Angeles and Maple Streets between 5th & 6th Streets.

DID:

McCormick reported that in Y-T-D 2008 there were 75 illegally dumped items in DID; Y-T-D 2009 there are 954. In 2008 8,122 bags of trash were collected; Y-T-D 2009 11,927 bags of trash have been collected.

McCormick informed the Board that an off duty BID-public safety officer caught and detained a tagger on Agatha and San Pedro Streets. The officer called LAPD Newton Division, the tagger was arrested, and bottles of blue spray paint were found in his back pack, as well as stained on his fingers. The BID public safety officer testified against the tagging suspect, and the suspect was convicted, sentenced to six months in jail, and ordered deported.

McCormick then reported that in Y-T-D 2008 blocking the sidewalk was at 285; Y-T-D 2009 blocking the sidewalk is at 851. Encampments have increased. McCormick stated that the Department of Mental Health is helping to get people housed, and some homeless individuals are leaving Skid Row to the Hollenbeck area.

The number of milk crates increased, as well as the amount of cardboard being collected.

Lopez stated that the economy is giving people an excuse to illegally dump. Lopez stated that maybe landlords are not providing enough dumpsters, or the dumpsters are not being emptied often enough. Lopez informed the Board that the BID maintenance team cleared the Agatha Alley (north side of Agatha) of 64 bags of trash. The property owner currently has trash disposal scheduled once per week, and he seems to think that is sufficient.

McCormick informed the Board that she would be obtaining additional dumpsters from the City of Los Angeles for the dumped items. Doizaki asked McCormick to classify illegal

dumping. McCormick stated that illegal dumping consists of big items, household items, personal items, construction materials, and green waste. McCormick stated that when individuals are caught dumping, they are cited and the City Attorney determines the penalty method.

Coelho asked if there were any surveillance cameras in the Toy District. McCormick stated that the camera that was previously installed on Winston and Wall Streets, has been moved to 5th Street east of San Julian Street.

Lopez stated that CCEA donated the cameras to the LAPD. LAPD asked that the camera be placed on San Julian due to the street being a high crime area. Although not within the BID boundaries, reducing crime on San Julian can have a positive impact on the BID area.

LAPD Update:

Sgt. Kris Werner reported that the LAPD Central Division is developing a public safety information sharing program between the LAPD and the Downtown BIDs, which will be staffed by a civilian. John Saslow, Arts District resident, has volunteered to staff the position. This is a pilot program proposed by Captain Blake Chow, more details forthcoming.

Doizaki asked how the LAPD would outreach to private building security officers, and would more networking be created.

McCormick stated that the Arts District BID currently has effective and efficient communication with private building security guards, and that those efforts would be duplicated in the Industrial District.

Doizaki suggested that McCormick plan a meeting to create an active watch program, and the meeting should include private guards, LAPD and the BID.

VII. MARKETING

Brehm reported that the Central City East DASH route runs from 6:00am to 6:30am, and averages six to seven riders per hour. Brehm stated that she attended a meeting with the LADOT and the CCE service providers to discuss the route, and all agreed that they would like the route to continue, however, the route may have to be cancelled or combined with another route due to lack of ridership. The Transportation Committee will meet in a month to further discuss the destiny of the route. It has been determined by the LADOT through survey, that the same riders use the route, but there are no new riders.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT- The meeting of the Board was adjourned at 1:15pm.